



GEORGIA COMMISSION ON THE HOLOCAUST

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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

2013 DISTINGUISHED EDUCATOR OF THE YEAR: RABBI REUVEN TRAVIS

On April 12, 2013, the Georgia Commission on the Holocaust, on behalf of the State of Georgia, is hosting the annual State Official Observance “Days of Remembrance” of the victims of the Holocaust. The observance begins at 12:00 pm in the North Wing of the State Capitol.

The 2013 Distinguished Educator of the Year for high school is Rabbi Reuven Travis of Yeshiva Atlanta.

Rabbi Reuven Travis spent 15 years as an advertising and marketing executive working both for large, Fortune 500 firms (such as Georgia-Pacific and Ogilvy & Mather) and as a consultant. He developed strategic business and marketing plans for a variety of consumer packaged goods and financial services companies. His clients included General Foods, Pepsi Cola, Star-Kist, Martha White Foods, American Express, C&S Bank (now Bank of America), SunTrust Banks and Bank South. He was responsible for implementation of these plans, including managing multi-million dollar budgets.

In 1999, Rabbi Travis started his career as an educator. Since then, he has worked as a teacher and administrator in one of Atlanta’s oldest and most established Jewish day schools and helped launch a new Modern Orthodox day school. He currently teaches American History, Jewish History and Chumash at Yeshiva Atlanta, a Modern Orthodox high school that works daily to build commitment to the Jewish faith and to the Jewish people in its students.

Rabbi Travis received his Rabbinic Ordination from Rabbi Michael J. Broyde, Dean of Atlanta Torah MiTzion Kollel in the summer of 2006, after spending four years learning with the Kollel.

Rabbi Travis received his BA from Dartmouth College, where he graduated Phi Beta Kappa with a double major in French Literature and Political Science. While at Dartmouth, he played for the school's varsity football team and spent his junior year in Paris studying at La Sorbonne. Rabbi Travis earned his Masters of Judaic Studies from Spertus College. He also holds a Masters of Teaching from Mercer University and has a T-5 teaching certification in Secondary Education.

“Rabbi Travis is an outstanding teacher who challenges his students by holding them to high standards and insisting that students think critically about history and truly engage with the material. He especially emphasizes the need to view historical events from multiple perspectives, and he focuses on common misunderstandings regarding American history,” wrote Joel Rojek, Assistant Principal for General Studies at Yeshiva Atlanta. “In particular, his lessons always center on generating enduring understandings and grappling with essential questions – these are lessons that will stay with his students for life and will help our youth become involved and engaged citizens.”

Georgia Power is the proud sponsor of the Distinguished Educator of the Year awards and the 2013 Art, Writing, and Music Contest.

Following the presentation of this award, six candles will be lit by Holocaust survivors, children of Holocaust survivors, and family members of liberators in remembrance of the six million Jews that were murdered by the Nazis and their collaborators.